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No. 3

the DEViANT™

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OTSMANE-ELHAOU

the DEVIANT

A Christmas Story

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TINY ONION
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MILWAUKEE

2023

EARTH TO DEREK.

SORRY. I WAS IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

THAT'S WHY I HAD TO SEND OUT A SIGNAL. A BROADCAST FROM EARTH. TO DEREK.

XMAS

IS SOMETHING UP? YOU'VE GOT A GOOD MOPE GOING ON.

HEH. IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE ME, IS IT?

SURE ISN'T.

OKAY, SO.

I WAS TALKING TO MY COUSIN THE OTHER WEEK. MY OLDEST COUSIN. WE GET ALONG REALLY WELL, AND WE WERE HAVING A CONVERSATION ABOUT...

...I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS A CONVERSATION ABOUT, BUT IT WAS A GOOD CONVERSATION. AND HE SAID SOMETHING THAT'S STUCK WITH ME. IT WAS LIKE...

OKAY, HE WAS POINTING OUT THIS GUY WE BOTH KNOW. HE'S GAY, AND HE'S IN HIS LIKE... MID-TO-LATE-40s, I THINK. NICE GUY. LIKE SOMETIMES MAYBE TOO AGGRESSIVELY NICE.

BUT MY COUSIN WAS SAYING THAT EVEN THOUGH HE'S THIS SWEET GUY EVERYBODY LOVES, THAT THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY ***SAD*** ABOUT HIM. SOMETHING LONELY.

AND IS THERE?

YEAH. HE'S GOT THIS LONELY VIBE TO HIM. BUT THAT'S NOT THE BIT THAT STUCK WITH ME. HE SAID THAT YOU SEE THAT A LOT IN GAY MEN AS THEY GET OLDER.

A KIND OF... DEEP SADNESS. THAT GETS A LITTLE MORE OBVIOUS WHEN THEY'RE TRYING TO COVER IT UP.

THAT'S FUCKED UP TO SAY. YOUR COUSIN'S STRAIGHT?

YEAH. AND IT IS FUCKED UP TO SAY. BUT LIKE... I DON'T KNOW. I LOOK AT A LOT OF GUYS I KNOW WHO ARE A BIT OLDER, AND IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S ***WRONG.***

LIKE, I KNOW EXCEPTIONS, BUT...

I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T THINK IT'S JUST GAY GUYS? LIKE, I THINK THERE'S A SAD, LONELY THING IN A LOT OF GUYS. "LIVES OF QUIET DESPERATION," YOU KNOW?

BUT LIKE, WE HAVE LESS TO HIDE BEHIND, I GUESS. FEWER OF US HAVE FAMILIES, AND UNLESS YOU'VE GOT MONEY TO, LIKE, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT...

...YOU JUST KIND OF HAVE TO KEEP GOING.

DEREK, I NEED YOU TO LOOK AT ME.

WHAT?

WHAT IS THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS UP TO? WHY ARE YOU THINKING THIS SHIT?

HEH.

MICHAEL REALLY DOESN'T NEED TO GROW UP TO GET THAT SAD, LONELY VIBE, DOES HE?

I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE WAS DOING BETTER. AFTER LIKE... THE SUPERHERO COMIC STUFF THAT WAS MAKING HIM MISERABLE.

HE IS. I JUST WISH...I DON'T KNOW. I REMEMBER WHEN WE MADE THE DECISION. THAT HE WAS GOING TO FINALLY WRITE SOMETHING THAT REALLY MATTERED TO HIM.

AND IT DIDN'T SCARE ME WHEN IT WAS SERIAL KILLER STUFF. HALF OF WHY WE STARTED DATING WAS SERIAL KILLER STUFF.

YOU'RE INTO THAT KIND OF SHIT?

HEH. I REGRET TO SAY THAT I AM YOUR STEREO-TYPICAL BASIC SUBURBAN WOMAN, AND I FUCKING ***LOVE*** THAT SERIAL KILLER SHIT.

AND MICHAEL WAS QUOTING THIS THING TED BUNDY SAID ONCE ABOUT HOW HE REMEMBERED HIS KILLINGS LIKE SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD REMEMBER A HUMPHREY BOGART MOVIE.

AND HE GOT THIS SAD LOOK ON HIS FACE AND SAID THAT THERE ARE WHOLE PARTS OF HIS LIFE HE FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT.

THAT'S SCARY.

I DON'T KNOW. HE JUST NEEDS SOMEONE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, I THINK.

BUT THEN HE STARTED ON THIS PROJECT, AND IT'S JUST GETTING MORE AND MORE INTO HIS HEAD. AND HE'S TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HIS WAY THROUGH IT, AND I WANT TO HELP HIM.

I WANT HIM TO LET GO OF WHATEVER'S STOPPING HIM. I THINK ONCE HE GETS THROUGH THIS. ONCE HE CAN LET GO OF... I DON'T KNOW.

THAT DISTANCE.

MAYBE HE'LL BE LIKE... PRESENT. IT WON'T BE LIKE HE'S WATCHING A HUMPHREY BOGART MOVIE.

YOU KNOW?

BUT ARE **YOU** LONELY, DEREK?

LIKE, **WITH HIM,** DO YOU FEEL LONELY?

NO.

IT'S NOT PERFECT. I'M NOT PRETENDING IT'S PERFECT. HE NEEDS SOMEBODY, AND I LIKE THAT THAT'S ME FOR RIGHT NOW.

CHRISTMAS KILLING IN CHICAGO

I JUST WISH I KNEW **WHY** THIS IS THE STORY HE'S DETERMINED TO TELL.

T.I.N.
DEVIANT

A Christmas Story by

JAMES TYNION IV and JOSHUA HIXSON

with HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU

KILLER

YEAH. I'VE SEEN IT. AND IT'S SOME FUCKING WEIRD TIMING, TOO.

CRIME SCENE

XMAS KILLER

CRIME WAVE IS KILLING CHRISTMAS

FBI, HUH? YOU GOT A NAME?

YEAH. OKAY, I THINK I GOT IT.

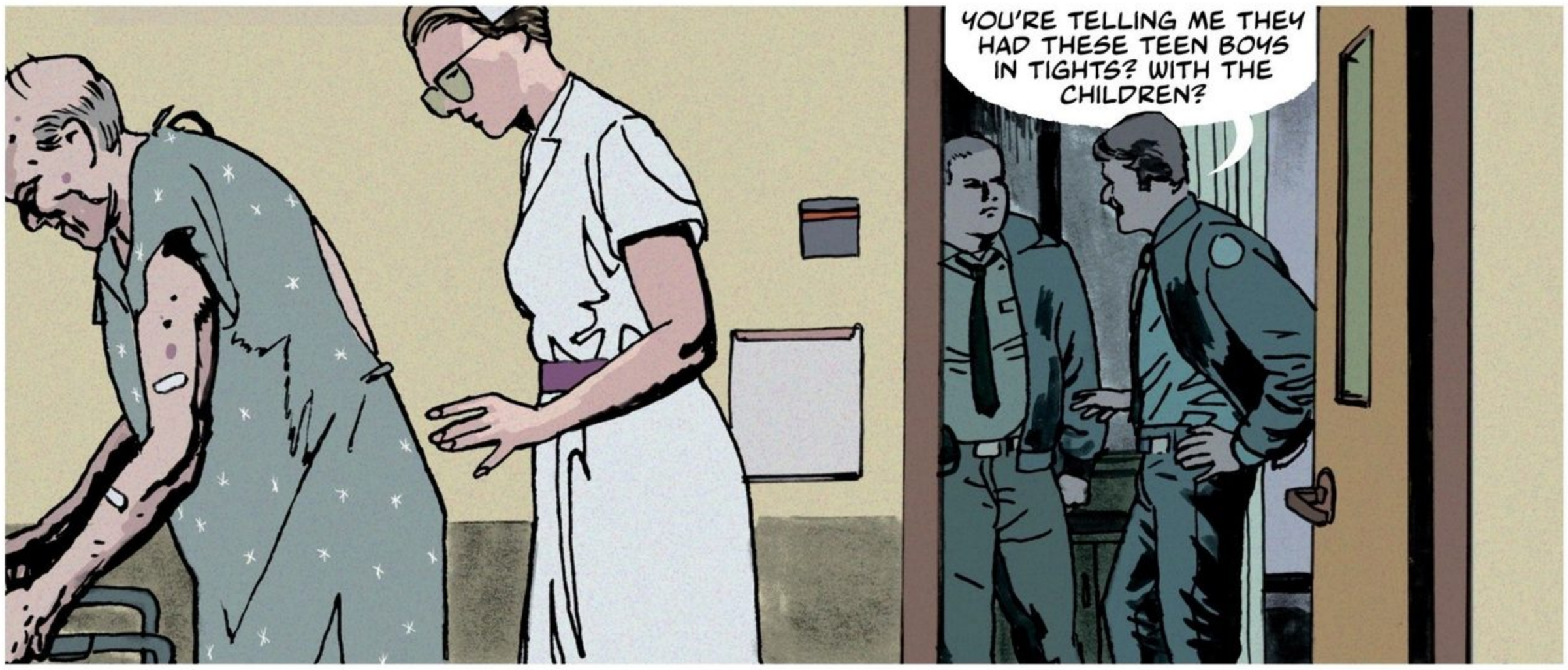
Beep

HON! I'M GOING OUT FOR A BIT. GOT A CALL FROM THE BOYS, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A BEER.

ALL RIGHT, DEAR!

MILWAUKEE

DECEMBER 1973



HKK

HRRR

HKK

HRR

THEY WERE SANTA'S HELPERS. HIS ELVES.

CHRIST--

HKK

COUPLE OF MARQUETTE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WORKING THERE ON THE WEEKENDS.

IN FAGGY LITTLE TIGHTS.

NO SURPRISE HOW THEY TURNED OUT.

IF I SAW MY BOY IN TIGHTS LIKE THIS...

UNGH...

...WE GET HIM?

PAUL?

THE FUCKING SANTA PSYCHOPATH, DID WE GET HIM?

WE DIDN'T GET HIM.

WE WERE A LITTLE BUSY HELPING OUR PAL WITH THE FUCKING AXE IN HIS FACE.

YEAH.

YOU SEEN YOURSELF IN A MIRROR?

YEAH. I'VE SEEN.

YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT?

I FEEL SWELL. DON'T I LOOK IT?

TELL ME WHAT WE KNOW.

WELL, IT AIN'T MUCH WORTH ANYTHING. HOMICIDE'S ICED US OUT SINCE THE FARM.

ALL THREE BODIES WORKED OUT OF GIMBELS, IN THEIR CHRISTMAS DEPARTMENT.

SANTA WAS ELMER RICHARDS. BIT OF A DRUNK, WE HEAR. AND MEAN. THEY'RE ASKING AROUND HIS USUAL DRINK SPOTS. SEE IF ANYBODY HAD A GRUDGE.

BUT THIS FUCKING DEVIANT DIDN'T FIDDLE WITH THE BODY LIKE HE DID THE BOYS.

MARQUETTE BOYS.

SET TO GRADUATE IN MAY.

SO, WHO DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON? SANTA AND HIS LITTLE ELVES?

HOMICIDE BROUGHT THIS FUNNY LITTLE GUY IN. THE FLOOR MANAGER AT GIMBELS. HAD A LONG CHAT, BUT I DIDN'T LIKE HOW QUICKLY THEY LET HIM GO.

FUNNY HOW?

YOU KNOW.

FUNNY.

WHERE DOES HE LIVE?

THIS *FUNNY* LITTLE GUY?

PAUL...YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. YOU'RE BARELY HALF-TOGETHER AFTER WHAT THAT FREAK DID TO YOU.

YEAH, AND YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME?

THAT'S WHAT I *THOUGHT.*

ONE MIIIIINUTE.

OH, HELLO.

RANDALL OLSEN?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, OFFICER? YOUR FACE...

IT'S FINE. THIS A BAD TIME?

NO, I SUPPOSE NOT. PLEASE COME IN.

THIS IS A NICE PLACE.
I LIKE IT NEAT.
YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND KEEPING IT NICE LIKE THIS?
NO GIRLFRIEND, I'M AFRAID. IT'S JUST ME.
RIGHT. ANY OTHER...
...FRIEND? WE ALONE IN HERE?
IT'S JUST ME, DETECTIVE.
CAN I GET YOU A TEA?
I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.
PAUL QUINN. NOT A DETECTIVE, ACTUALLY.
DO YOU MIND IF I MAKE MYSELF SOME?
AND I'M FINE.
IT'S YOUR HOUSE.

TK TK TK TK

YOU'RE SHAKING, RANDALL.

IT'S... IT'S THE BOYS.

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE SOMEONE WOULD DO SOMETHING SO HORRIBLE TO THEM.

DID YOU... I'VE HEARD SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS.

DID YOU SEE THEM? STRUNG UP IN LIGHTS LIKE THEY SAID IN THE PAPERS?

YEAH. I SAW THEM.

I'M SORRY.

YEAH.

HOW WELL WOULD YOU SAY YOU KNEW THEM?

ENOUGH TO KNOW THEY WERE VERY SPECIAL YOUNG MEN. THEY HAD... GOOD HEARTS.

I'M SORRY. IT'S BEEN HARD KEEPING THE TEARS IN.

MIND IF I USE THE JOHN?

OH, UH. SURE.

DOWN THE HALL ON THE RIGHT.

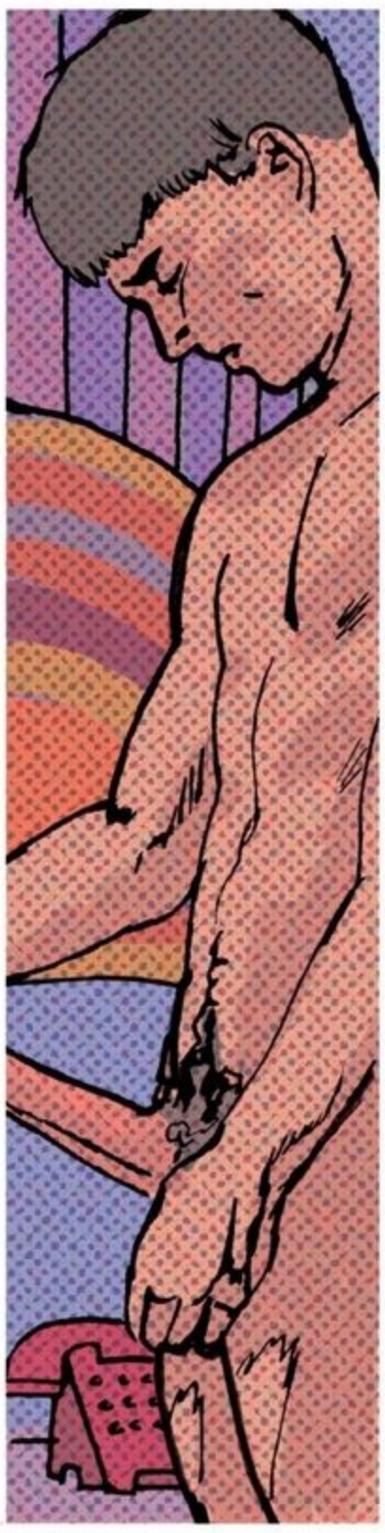
ZIP

DIMPLE

TIMMY

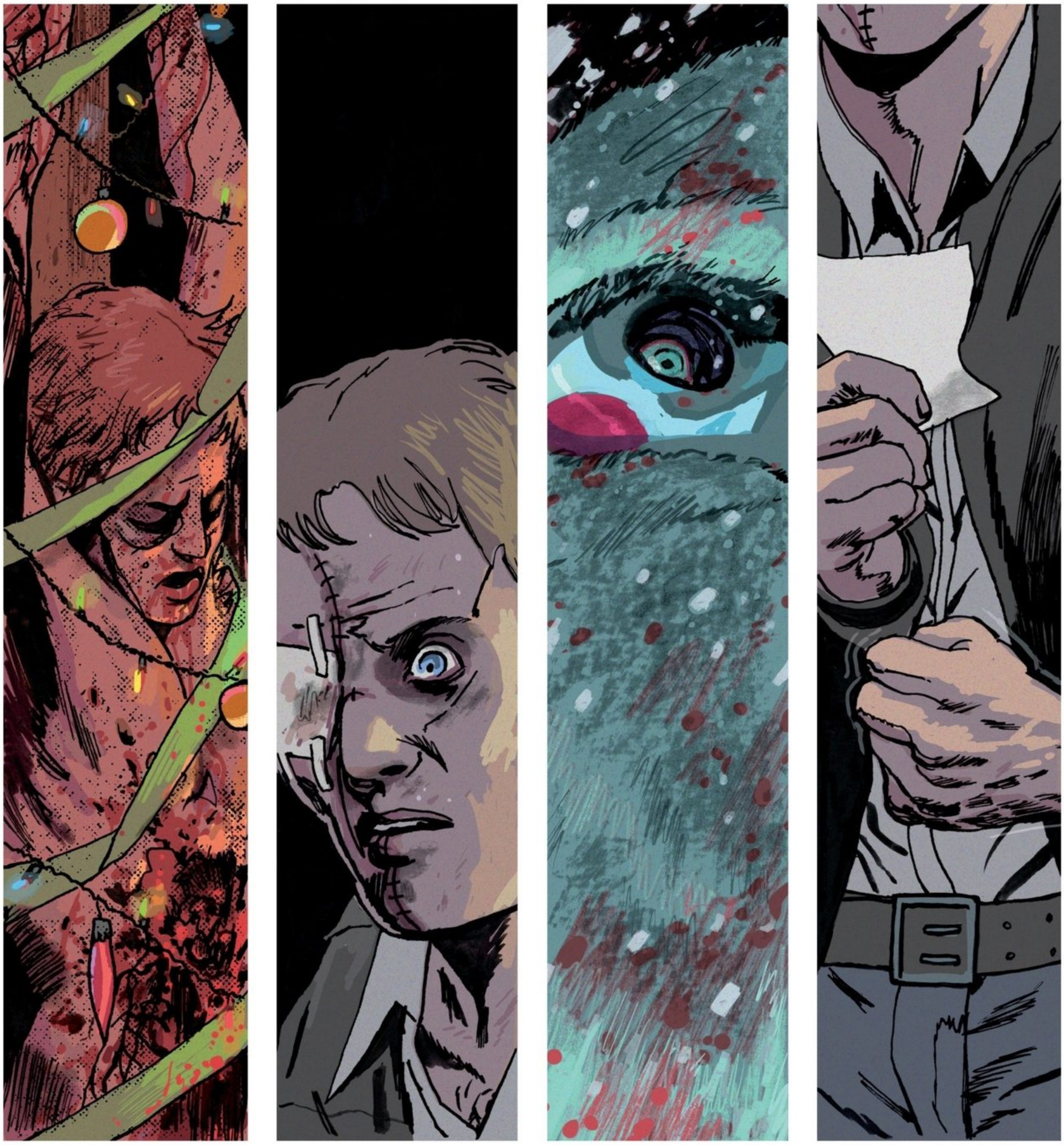
Blue Boy

Blue Boy



JESUS.

ZIP



OFFICER, I CAN EXPLAIN.

YOU FUCKING PERVERT.

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

MILWAUKEE

2023

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR BOYFRIEND IS?

TO BE CONTINUED

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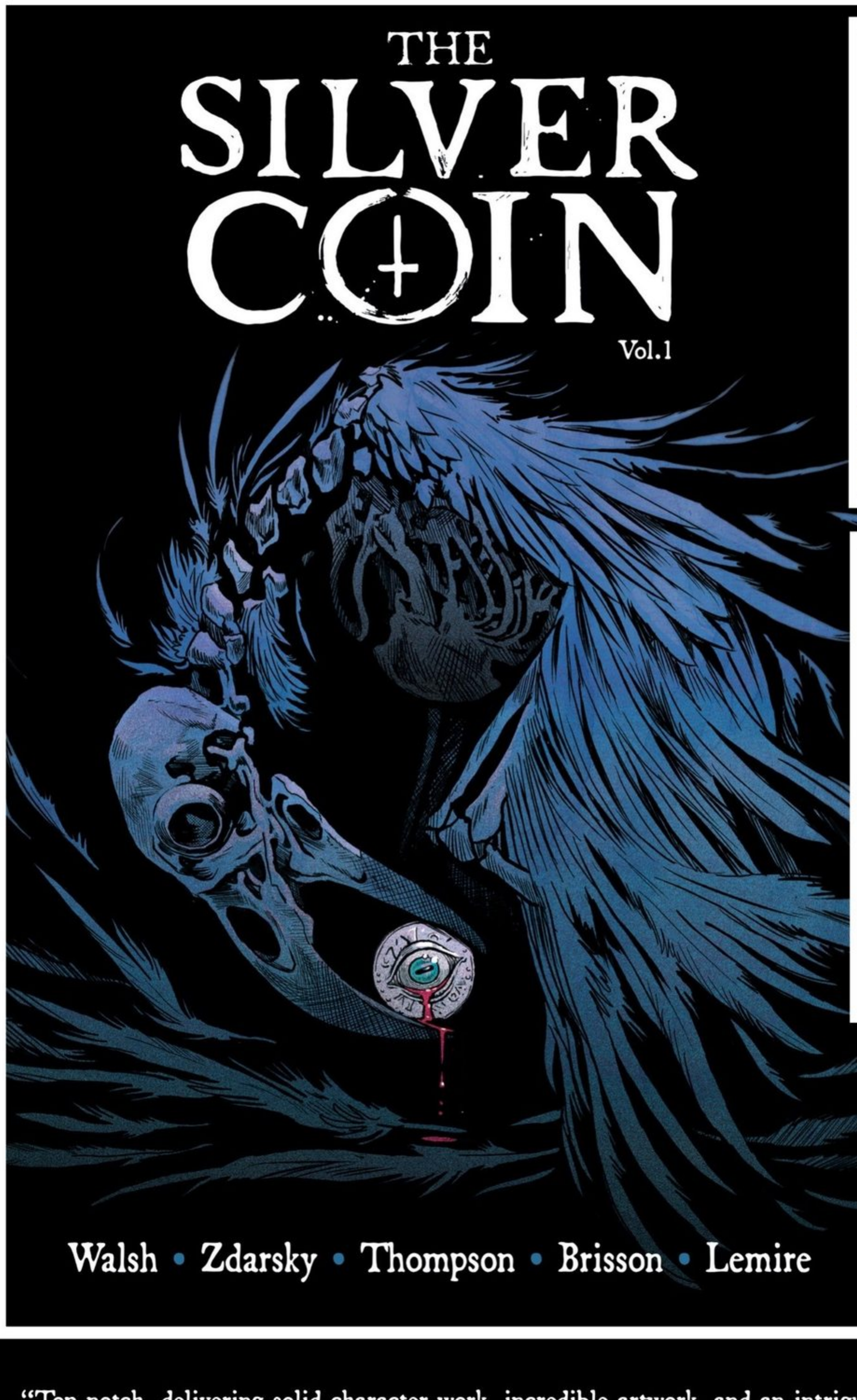

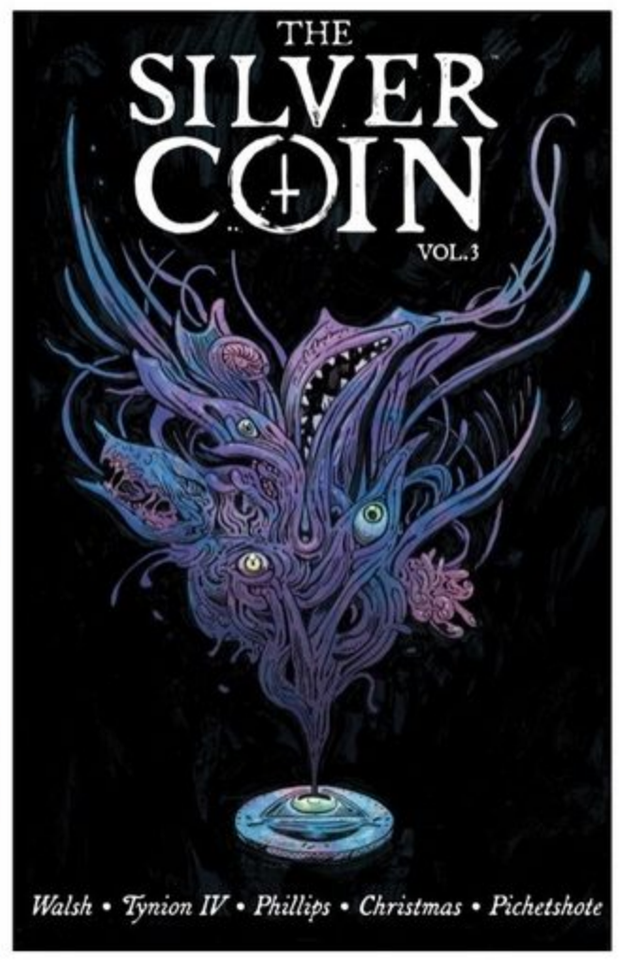

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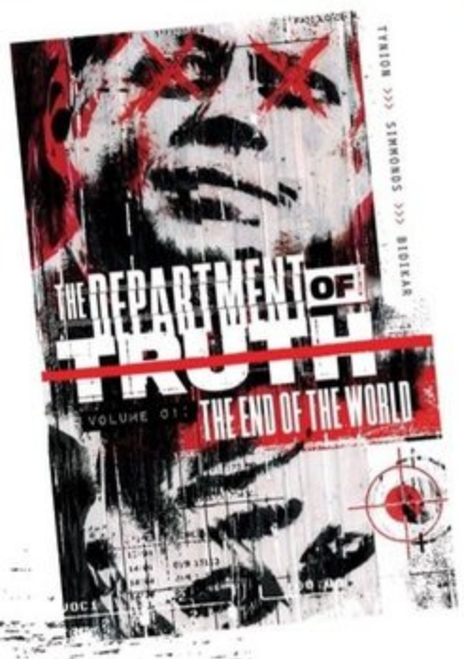

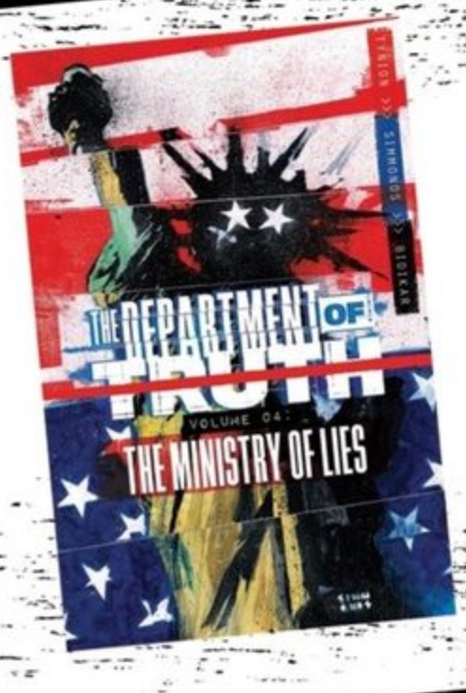

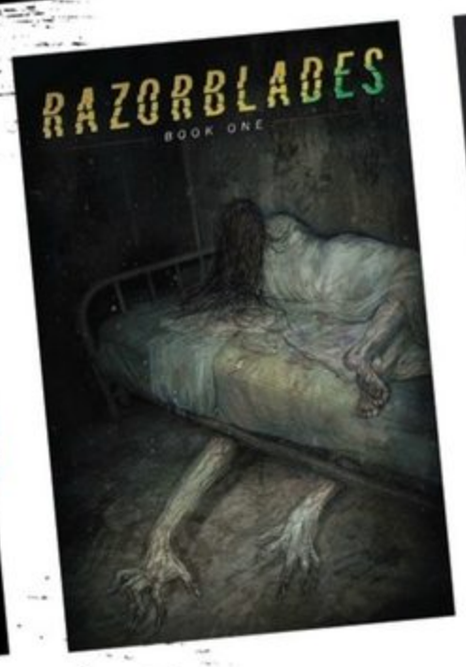

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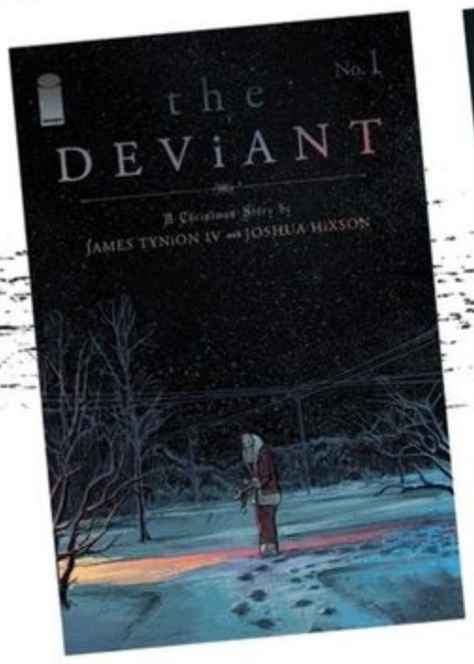

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COVER ART BY JOSHUA HIXSON

RATED M / MATURE

ISSUE THREE
COVER A

MEPHISTO